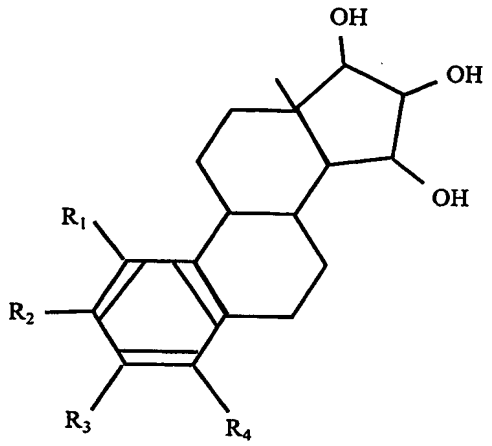
CLAIMS

1. Use of an estrogenic component selected from the group consisting of:
substances represented by the following formula



in which formula R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 independently are a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group with 1-5 carbon atoms;
precursors capable of liberating a substance according to the aforementioned formula when used in the present method; and
mixtures of one or more of the aforementioned substances and/or precursors;
in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for use in a method of treating or preventing estrogen-suppressed tumours in a mammal, said method comprising the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of the estrogenic component to said mammal.

2. Use according to claim 1, wherein no more than 3 of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 are hydrogen atoms;

3. Use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R_3 represents a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group.

4. Use according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein at least 3 of the groups R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 represent hydrogen atoms.

5. Use according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the precursors capable of liberating the estrogenic substance are derivatives of the present estrogen substances, wherein the hydrogen atom of at least one of the hydroxyl groups has been substituted by an acyl radical of a hydrocarbon carboxylic, sulfonic acid or sulfamic acid of 1-25 carbon atoms; tetrahydrofuranyl; tetrahydropyranyl; or a straight or branched chain glycosydic residue containing 1-20 glycosidic units per residue.

6. Use according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the method comprises the uninterrupted administration of the estrogenic component during a period of at least 5 days, preferably of at least 30 days.

7. Use according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the method comprises oral, transdermal, intravenous or subcutaneous administration of the estrogenic component.

8. Use according to claim 7, wherein the method comprises oral administration.

9. Use according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein the estrogenic component is administered in an amount of at least 1 μg per kg of bodyweight per day, preferably of at least 5 μg per kg of bodyweight per day.

10. Use according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein the estrogen-suppressed tumours are selected from the group consisting of colorectal tumours or prostate tumours.

11. Use according to any one of claims 1-10, wherein the mammal suffers or has suffered from benign or malign tumours, particularly colorectal tumours.

12. Use according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein the mammal is a female, particularly a human female.

13. Use according to any one of claims 1-12, wherein the method comprises co-administration of a progestogen.

14. A pharmaceutical composition containing:

a. at least 0.05 mg of an estrogenic component as defined in claim 1;

b. at least 0.01 mg of an anti-tumour component selected from the group consisting of 5α-reductase inhibitors; anti-androgens; cytochrome $P450_{17\alpha}$ inhibitors; α1 adrenoceptor blockers; and microtubule inhibitors; and

c. pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

15. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14, wherein the anti-tumour component is selected from the group consisting of 5α-reductase inhibitors; anti-androgens; and cytochrome $P450_{17\alpha}$ inhibitors.

16. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 15, wherein the anti-tumour component is selected from the group consisting of finasteride, dutasteride (GI-198745), epristeride, turosteride, lipidosterol extract, cyproterone acetate, osaterone acetate, chlormadinone acetate, flutamide, nilutamide, bicalutamide and abiraterone

17. A drug delivery system comprising a pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 14-16, said drug delivery system being selected from the group consisting of an oral dosage unit; an injectable fluid; a suppository; a gel; and a cream.

18. A pharmaceutical kit comprising one or more dosage units containing at least 0.05 mg of the estrogenic component as defined in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient; and one or more dosage units containing at least 0.01 mg of an anti-tumour component selected from the group consisting of 5α-reductase inhibitors; anti-androgens; cytochrome $P450_{17\alpha}$ inhibitors; α1 adrenoceptor blockers; and microtubule inhibitors; and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

19. The pharmaceutical kit according to claim 18, wherein the dosage units are oral dosage units.